

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9285

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 3048

GENEVA PASS TO AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ORP (CLARK, DICK); APER (CARTER, W. BEVERLY, JR.) TZ

SUBJECT: CODEL: RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT AMBASSADOR CARTER

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE ON AMBASSADOR CARTER'S FUTURE STATUS TOOK PLACE DURING SENATOR CLARK'S PRESS CONFERENCE HELD MORNING AUGUST 20.

QUESTION: SENATOR CLARK, WE READ IN THE PRESS THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA HAS BEEN EXPELLED APPARENTLY FOR HIS ROLE IN RESCUING TO SAFETY THE THREE AMERICAN STUDENTS AND ONE DUTCH. WE UNDERSTAND, FROM THE PRESS, THAT IT IS NOT U.S. POLICY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SO-CALLED TERRORISTS. SOME OF US HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UNAWARE OR RATHER SURPRISED BECAUSE AT THE TIME WHEN YOU ARE DEMOTING AN AMBASSADOR FOR TRYING TO SECURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR CITIZENS, AT THE SAME TIME THERE HAVE BEEN AMBASSADORS OR US OFFICIALS PROMOTED FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE KILLING OF SO MANY PEOPLE ELSEWHERE IN INDO-CHINA. THIS SEEMS RATHER FUNNY. IS THIS THE REASON THAT AMBASSADOR CARTER IS EXPELLED AND DEMOTED OR IS THE REAL REASON REALLY BECAUSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRP OR IS THERE SOME OTHER REASON?

CLARK: YOU ARE ASKING A VERY DIFFICULT QUESTION BECAUSE IT GOES UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE QUESTION OF SOME ONE'S MOTIVES IN THIS CASE THE SECRETARY

OF STATE OR WHOMEVER, AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO REALLY LOOK AT THOSE MOTIVES AND BE SURE OF WHY. MY OWN GUESS AND THAT'S ALL IT IS, IS THAT THE REASONS THAT WERE GIVEN ARE THE REASONS THAT HE WAS REMOVED. NOW I DON'T HAPPEN TO SHARE THAT VIEW BUT I THINK THAT THE REASONS THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED ARE THE REAL REASONS FOR HIS DISMISSAL. I DON'T THINK THERE IS SOMETHING DEEPER. OBVIOUSLY, I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO KNOW ALL THE FACTS IN THIS SITUATION. I WOULDN'T BEGIN TO KNOW THE SPECIFIC THINGS THAT HAPPENED HERE IN GREAT DETAIL. BUT I HAVE MY OWN GENERAL FEELING, AND THAT IS ALL I CAN GIVE YOU BECAUSE THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

MY OWN GENERAL FEELING IS THAT THE AMBASSADOR DID A GOOD JOB. THAT HE SUCCEEDED AT WHAT HE UNDERTOOK, THAT THE PEOPLE WERE RETURNED, AND IN EFFECT I WOULD CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE JOB THAT HE DID. I WOULD NOT FAVOR HIS DEMOTION. AND THAT'S ABOUT ALL IN OTHER WORDS IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE DID BECOME VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THE CASE AND I CAN TELL YOU I DON'T KNOW HOW AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR REPRESENTING AMERICAN CITIZENS COULD HAVE AVOIDED THAT AND HE SUCCEEDED AT IT AND I THINK HE DID IT CAREFULLY.

QUESTION: IS THE SENATE LIKELY TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER?

CLARK: I DON'T KNOW. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SPEAK FOR 99 OTHER SENATORS, I'VE NEVER DISCUSSED IT WITH ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE IT WAS ... AS A MATTER OF FACT THE STORY WAS JUST BREADING AFTER THE SENATE WENT OUT ON RECESS SO I DIDN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO DISCUSS IT WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT IT MAY WELL BE THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OR THE SENATE GENERALLY WILL BE INTERESTED IN TAKING IT UP BUT I COULDN'T SPEAK FOR THEM.

QUESTION: ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HAVING IT TAKEN UP?

CLARK: OF COURSE I AM, YES.
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